

AMDI3-187 (LATE)  
4/11/07

**Jessie White**

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**From:** Jim Scholl [jim\_scholl@dot.state.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 09, 2007 3:04 PM  
**To:** 'Jessie White'  
**Subject:** FW: Juneau Katzahein Road

Jessie, log this in as a late comment. Thanks!

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Melissa Aronson [mailto:Aronson@aptalaska.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 07, 2007 3:48 PM  
**To:** DOT\_STIP@dot.state.ak.us  
**Cc:** aronson@aptalaska.net  
**Subject:** Juneau Katzahein Road

We are writing regarding what we call "JERK", the Juneau Extension of the Road to Katzahein. This is a case of corporate welfare at its worst since the road will only basically serve the Kensington mine.

The Alaska Marine Highway is, was, and can be a magnificent form of transportation for Southeast Alaska. The system has been badly mismanaged in the last few years and needs some upgrades and a reliable schedule but is certainly the most sensible way to provide transporation in Southeast. The proposed JERK road will be environmentally destructive, dangerous, and closed a great deal of the time.

The estimates for the cost of the road are very likely old and way under the real costs; certainly if any road construction is to occur, accurate costs of construction need to be determined. Those costs need to include road construction, maintainance, avalanche repair and protection, cost of ferries to move from the end of the road to Haines and Skagway, and cost of a place to shelter and feed people if they get to the end of the road and the ferries can't cross.

We live in Haines and look right out on Lynn Canal. There are many days when crossing from Katzehein to Haines or Skagway would be dangerous. So the road, if built, wouldn't work all of the time. Just this week we took the ferry to Juneau and back. It was a delightful trip and we had a great chance to visit with friends and enjoy the beauty of our area. We also noticed how many avalanches have reached all the way to the ocean this year. What a dangerous and stupid place to put a road.

Please make rational financial decisions. The ferry system in Southeast Alaska is fine. Improve it but don't build a boondoggle of an environmentally destructive, dangerous, and expensive road.

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